

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Serial Number: 08/818,289

Filing Date: March 14, 1997

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OPTICAL INTERACTANCE AND TRANSMITTANCE MEASUREMENTS

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Dkt: 653.001US1

S/N 08/818,289

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Edward W. Stark

Examiner: R. A. Rosenberger

Serial No.: 08/818,289

Group Art Unit: 2877

Filed: March 14, 1997

Docket: 653.001US1

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OPTICAL INTERACTANCE AND
TRANSMITTANCE MEASUREMENTS

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO REJECTION UNDER 37 CFR 1.196(b)

BOX AF

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Applicant has reviewed the Office Action mailed on January 9, 2002. That Office Action was a decision by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to reverse the rejections under 35 USC 103(a) and to apply a new rejection of claims under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. This Amendment is made in an effort to respond to and overcome the new grounds of rejection. Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

1. A process for improving optical interactance measurements comprising the steps of:
passing illumination along a plurality of different transmission paths
through an interior portion of a material having a characteristic to be measured;
defining each of said transmission paths by corresponding and separated
surface areas on said material, one of said corresponding and separated surface
areas for passing transmitted illumination into said material as a beginning of a
first transmission path and [the] a second of said corresponding and separated
surface areas for passing transmitted illumination from said material for detection
as an end of the first transmission path, at least one of said corresponding and
separated surface areas of each of said transmission paths being extended in
length as a ring shape or slit shape on said surface at substantially constant
spacing from the other corresponding and separated surface area of said each of